

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8487
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3851

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG CS MX
SUBJ: FACIO'S CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENCY OF 33RD UNGA

1. SUMMARY: FORMIN FACIO SAYS HE CLEARLY HAS BACKING OF LA REGION FOR GA PRESIDENCY, BUT THAT GARCIA ROBLES OF MEXICO MAY BREAK TRADITION AND TAKE HIS OWN CANDIDACY TO PLENARY IF HE IS NOT THE LA REGION'S CHOICE. SO FAR FACIO HAS NO CARIBBEAN SUPPORT BECAUSE OF COSTA RICA'S STAND ON BELIZE. END SUMMARY.

2. FORMIN GONZALO FACIO RAISED HIS CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENCY OF 33RD UNGA WITH AMB AND DCM ON AUGUST 17 DURING MEETING AT FOREIGN MINISTRY ON PANAMA CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. THIS WAS FIRST TIME FACIO HAS DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS.

3. FACIO EXPLAINED THAT EVEN THOUGH HE CLEARLY HAD SUPPORT OF MAJORITY OF LATINS WITHIN THE LA REGION, HE UNDERSTANDS THAT GARCIA ROBLES OF MEXICO SO FAR IS REFUSING TO BACK AWAY FROM HIS CANDIDACY. FURTHER, FACIO SAYS HE HAS BEEN TOLD THAT GARCIA ROBLES IS PREPARED TO CARRY THE FIGHT TO THE PLENARY IF HE, GARCIA ROBLES, IS NOT ENDORSED AS THE REGION'S CANDIDATE. FACIO NOTED THAT NO COUNTRY HAS EVER EXERCISED THE PRESIDENCY OF THE GA MORE THAN ONCE, AND THAT THE ELECTION OF GARCIA ROBLES WOULD BREAK THE PRACTICE OF ROTATING THE PRESIDENCY. HE SAID THAT IF IT WERE TO GO TO THE
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PLENARY, HE THOUGHT THAT LA MIGHT LOSE THE PRESIDENCY THIS TIME. FACIO SAID HE HAD JUST WRITTEN A LETTER TO MEXICAN FORMIN ROEL SETTING FORTH ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF PRESERVING THE TRADITION OF SUPPORTING THE REGIONAL CANDIDATE, WHOEVER HE MAY BE.

4. AMBASSADOR TOLD FACIO THAT US POSITION, OF COURSE, HAS BEEN AND IS TO SUPPORT CONSENSUS CANDIDATE OF REGION WHOSE TURN IT IS TO

EXERCISE PRESIDENCY. FACIO RESPONDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THIS VERY CLEARLY, THAT HE WAS NOT ASKING FOR US SUPPORT AT THIS TIME, BUT WANTED USG TO BE AWARE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

5. FACIO ALSO SAID HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN SINGLE CARIBBEAN VOTE AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF BELIZE PROBLEM. IN THIS REGARD, HE

SAID THAT FORTHCOMING MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS MIGHT FURTHER WEAKEN CHANCES OF OBTAINING CARIBBEAN SUPPORT. AT SAME TIME, HE SAID, BELIZEAN OFFICIALS WHO RECENTLY VISITED COSTA RICA TOLD HIM THEY WOULD INTERCEDE IN THE CARIBBEAN IN FAVOR OF FACIO'S CANDIDACY.

6. COMMENT: FACIO IS CLEARLY WORRIED ABOUT HIS CHANCES OF GETTING OVER BOTH THE GARCIA ROBLES AND THE BELIZE HURDLES, BUT HE GIVES EVERY APPEARANCE OF PLANNING TO CONTINUE THE EFFORT THROUGH TO ITS ULTIMATE CONCLUSION. HE SAID THAT ALL OF THIS NORMALLY WOULD BE RESOLVED IN AUGUST OR AT THE LATEST BY MID) SEPTEMBER, BUT THAT GARCIA ROBLES OBVIOUSLY SEES TIME IN HIS FAVOR AND IS TRYING DESPERATELY TO BREAK ALL PRECEDENTS. WEISSMAN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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